UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
ECUADOR

IPF:(1992-96) $12 000 000

(ECU/91/011) - Strengthening of Community Management for the Design and Implementation of Urban Human Settlements

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	23 October 1991
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	HABITAT
Government implementing agency:	National Development Council (CONADE)(Ministry of Social Welfare)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 100 000
Third-party cost sharing:	$ 1 606 500 Source of funds: DANIDA
Total UNDP budget:	$ 1 706 500

Project background

The Government of Ecuador seeks to improve access to basic services for the poorest segments of the population through increased community participation, making a special effort to increase the access to income-generating activities and social services by women. Already during the Fourth Cycle, UNDP has built up a strong presence in close collaboration with third-party donors such as Sweden and the Netherlands in this area with an emphasis on low-cost housing, community participation and gender specificity. Social indicators show that the oil based economy of the last two decades has not led to generalized improvements in living standards since 40 per cent of the urban and 65 per cent of the rural population continue to subsist under the poverty line. Women have been particularly affected by these deteriorating social conditions which constitutes an increasingly serious societal problem as expressed by the fact that 14.6 per cent of all households are headed by women.

High demographic growth rates and migration from rural areas are the main causes for the rapid expansion of spontaneous settlements in marginal urban areas. In the last ten years, a large number of families have migrated from rural to urban areas. This demographic shift has become most noticeable in the outskirts of the large cities. In Quito as well as Guayaquil, for example, this has resulted in the creation of spontaneous settlements, more than doubling their population each year. In fact, some of these settlements have currently reached the size of over 30,000 inhabitants.

In most of these areas there is a total lack of basic infrastructure, mainly a need for drinking water and sanitation. Subsequently, this situation is aggravated by the physical characteristics of the majority of the areas where these marginal settlements are

[1/] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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established, since floods and mudslides are a constant risk; and constitutes a structural problem that challenges the capacity of the Central Government, particularly during the current period of budget restrictions which limits the assignment of resources to alleviating this situation. A profusion of fragmented and poorly planned activities as well as an insufficient delegation from the Central Government to the municipalities add to the complexity of this problem. In light of this, the Government requested UNDP assistnace under the present approval to generate assistance in the field of "Poverty and Social Participation".

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the communities to develop and undertake sound development initiatives. This process will improve living conditions at the local level, while including women as central actors.

The immediate objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of marginalized communities in the outskirts of Quito, Guayaquil and Cuenca to design and implement their own housing and community-infrastructure projects.

Project activities grouped into four different categories will include: (a) strengthening the command and response capacity of local organizations through the identification of local needs and resources, as well as the training of leaders; (b) training women in the use of community resources, as well as in setting up micro-enterprises; (c) providing reources for building and improving houses, as well as basic services in the communities; and (d) assessing how the Government can sharpen its decentralization effort through strategies that will make governmental and non-governmental organizations work together.

Special emphasis will be given to the training of women, particularly heads-of-household and youth, in income generating activities; and training will also focus on providing the necessary skills to women so they can teach health, community organization, and environmental programmes to other community groups. These activities will be based on the studies of the conditions of women in the communities which will be affected by the project. The active participation of NGOs will be encouraged as subcontractors in fields where they hold comparative advantages such as training, the improvement of housing and waste disposal.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a chief technical adviser (60 work-months), an international consultant on decentralization (12 work-months); national consultants on training, appropriate technologies, low cost housing and community mobilization (94 work-months); three subcontracts with NGOs and community groups on design and implementation of housing construction and improvement schemes; in-service training for members of the community on community participation, gender analysis, community workshops, housing construction and environmental protection; project-related equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	722 700
Subcontract	554 300
Training	281 000
Equipment	95 500
Miscellaneous	53 000
Total	1 706 500

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